

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 03809 011105Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /013 W
-----016652 011114Z /15 R
R 010419Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8451

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STADIS////////////////////////////////

FOR EA/TIMBS FROM INGRAHAM

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, SHUM, ID
SUBJ: DR. SUTANTI AIDIT

REF: STATE 207433

1. MY SOURCES FOR THE STATEMENT THAT DR. SUTANTI AIDIT WAS
A MEMBER OF THE PKI CENTRAL COMMITTEE WERE OF TWO SORTS:
RECENT AND QUITE ANCIENT.

2. THE LATTER SOURCES GO BACK TO MY TOUR AS POLITICAL OFFICER
IN JAKARTA IN 1958-60 AND AS INDONESIAN DESK OFFICER IN 1962-65.
AT LEAST DURING LATTER PART OF THIS PERIOD, DR. AIDIT WAS KNOWN
TO EVERYONE FOLLOWING INDONESIAN POLITICAL AFFAIRS AS HEAD
OF GERWANI, THE WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION OF THE PKI (SHE MAY EVEN
HAVE BEEN PUBLICLY IDENTIFIED AS SUCH, ALTHOUGH I AM NOT SURE
OF THIS). GERWANI WAS IN NO SENSE A MERE FRONT ORGANIZATION
BUT AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE PKI. DURING THAT TIME I RECALL
SEEING DOCUMENTS IDENTIFYING HER AS GERWANI'S REPRESENTATIVE ON
THE PKI CENTRAL COMMITTEE. THIS WAS 22-PLUS YEARS AGO UNFOR-
TUNATELY AND I CANNOT CITE THE SPECIFIC DOCUMENTS. A CHECK OF
THE DEPARTMENT'S FILES, ESPECIALLY OF THE RETIRED EMBASSY JAKARTA
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FILES DURING THAT PERIOD, SHOULD PRODUCE SOMETHING.

3. I DID NOT, HOWEVER, DESCRIBE DR. AIDIT AS A MEMBER OF THE
PKI CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON THE BASIS ONLY OF THESE RECOLLECTIONS.
I DISTINCTLY REMEMBER A POST-1974 TELEGRAM FROM EMBASSY JAKARTA
DESCRIBING HER AS SUCH. AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL FIRST DESIGNATED
DR. AIDIT AS A "PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE" IN (I BELIEVE) 1975,

AND THE FIRST CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES ON HER BEHALF REACHED EA/IMS SHORTLY AFTERWARD. TO HELP US RESPOND TO THESE EARLY INQUIRIES, WE SENT A MESSAGE TO JAKARTA ASKING FOR INFORMATION ON HER STATUS. AS I REMEMBER, SEVERAL MESSAGES WERE EXCHANGED. IN ONE OF THEM, MY RECOLLECTION IS THAT THE EMBASSY SAID SPECIFICALLY THAT GOI OFFICIALS BELIEVED HER TO HAVE BEEN A MEMBER OF THE PKI CENTRAL COMMITTEE. SINCE THIS CHECKED FULLY WITH MY OWN MEMORY, I INCLUDED IT IN THE STANDARD LETTER ON DR. AIDIT THAT (WITH SOME MODIFICATIONS) WE CONTINUED TO USE IN RESPONDING TO CONGRESSIONAL QUERIES ON DR. AIDIT UNTIL AT LEAST JULY 1977. SUGGEST YOU CHECK THE FILES, AND YOU MAY WANT TO QUERY JAKARTA ON THIS.

4. ONE OTHER ASPECT OF THE SUTANTI AIDIT MATTER MIGHT SHED SOME ADDITIONAL LIGHT. SHORTLY AFTER AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL DESIGNATED HER A "PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE", I RECALL SOMEONE (I DON'T REMEMBER WHO BUT I BELIEVE HE WAS FROM THE BRITISH EMBASSY) COMMENTING CASUALLY THAT AMNESTY'S INFORMATION ON HER HAD COME FROM CARMEL BUDJARDJO, THE BRITISH COMMUNIST WHO WAS AN OFFICIAL OF THE SUKARNO GOVERNMENT PRIOR TO HER ARREST AFTER THE 1965 PKI COUP ATTEMPT. I FOUND LATER THAT AMNESTY'S LITERATURE ON DR. AIDIT INCLUDED CONSIDERABLE ALLEGED DETAIL REGARDING HER MISTREATMENT WHILE IN PRISON, ETC. THE LITERATURE STATED SPECIFICALLY THAT THIS INFORMATION COVERED ONLY THE PERIOD THROUGH 1971 AND THAT NOTHING WAS KNOWN OF HER SITUATION SUBSEQUENT TO LATE 1971. YOU WILL RECALL, OF COURSE, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT CARMEL BUDJARDJO WAS RELEASED BY THE INDONESIANS AND RETURNED TO BRITAIN IN DECEMBER 1971. IF THE QUESTION OF DR. AIDIT'S STATUS IS GOING TO BE EXAMINED IN SOME DETAIL, I WOULD SUGGEST THAT AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL BE REQUESTED TO SPECIFY THE SOURCE OF ITS INFORMATION ON HER.

5. SINCE I HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING THIS MATTER FOR SO LONG, I WOULD APPRECIATE IF YOU COULD LET ME KNOW HOW ALL THIS COMES OUT. HOLDRIDGE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL PRISONERS, COMMUNISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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SAS ID: 1083463
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Subject: DR. SUTANTI AIDIT
TAGS: PINS, SHUM, ID, (AIDIT, SUTANTI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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